**Miscommunication**

**The last shot of the Civil War was fired in the remote region of the Bering Sea. The Confederate cruiser Shenandoah fired on a Union whaler on June 22, 1865, not knowing the war was over. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 25)***

**Frank calls on the telephone and receives the message: “By mistake you have been connected to the correct government department on the first try. Please hang up and dial a wrong extension.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

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**Frank: “Did you read Hemingway’s book ‘Across the River and Under the Trees’?” Ernest: “No. I didn’t even know he played golf.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Every morning, a friend of mine and her children listened to programs of instruction on the radio. She particularly enjoyed the exercise class. One day she tuned in late, only to hear an energetic instructor already urging pupils along at a fast pace: “Up . . . down . . . circle round . . . up . . . down . . . circle round. . . .” Just as my friend was about to drop with exhaustion, the voice added, “Now, everyone stop and put your paintbrush back in the water jar.” *(Mrs. Robin Waalkens, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Charlie Brown: “What do you do with two friends who are having a misunderstanding?” Lucy: “Straighten them out! Show ‘em where they’ve gone wrong! Tell ‘em to shape up!” Charlie Brown: “Is that good psychology?” Linus: “In strict medical terms, it’s called ‘butting in’!” *(Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**My wife is from the North and I’m a Southerner. When we first met, we were both teaching in the same school. One day I asked her to meet me in the corridor at the end of the day. When the time came, I waited for her in the corridor while she waited for me by the car door. *(C. S., in Reader’s Digest)***

**Pianist Joseph Kalichstein recalls an incident at Carnegie Hall with “the most horrible page turner of them all”: I was assuming he had had some experience and was hoping for the best. The page turner, perhaps not wishing to distract, didn’t rise from his seat and reach for the top of the page to be turned, as he should have. Instead, he stayed glued to the chair and turned each page from the bottom of the manuscript, blocking half of the music with each motion. Finally I hissed at him, “At the top! At the top!” – whereupon the page turner stood up indignantly and flipped all the music back to the starting measure. *(Albin Krebs and Robert McG. Thomas, Jr., in New York Times)***

**My friend was having her picture taken for her driver’s license. She was told to stand and touch her toes on the line on the floor. However, when the examiner looked through the camera, no face could be found. Looking over the counter, he saw my friend dutifully bent over at the waist, touching her toes with her hands. *(L. F., in Reader’s Digest)***

**The basic problem: I can see you, I can hear you, yet I cannot comprehend anything you say or do. *(Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

**First animal: “If you put this shell to your ear you can hear the ocean.” Second animal puts the shell to his ear and says: “I’m not getting any reception out here.” *(Patrick McDonnell, in Mutts comic strip)***

**“No, we haven’t had any in a long time now,” said the supermarket clerk to the shopper. “Whoa!” said the manager who had just come along. “I’m sure we have, lady. This is a new clerk and he doesn’t know how we keep our stock records and inventory. We’ve got plenty in the warehouse and will get some over this afternoon. If you come back after lunch, we’ll have all you need. Now, tell me, just what was it that he said we haven’t had in a long time?” “Rain,” said the woman. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**As a real-estate broker, I once listed a house that had several rooms decorated in hot pink. I advised the seller to repaint, and was thrilled when he called to say he had done so. “You were right,” he said. “It looks much better now.” Several days later I showed the house to prospective buyers. We found the interior all freshly painted – in the same shade of hot pink. *(J. D. Wohlers, in Reader’s Digest)***

**You can’t expect a man to see eye to eye with you when you’re looking down on him. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The trouble with her is that she lacks the power of conversation but not the power of speech. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**More and more doctors are running their practices like assembly lines. One fellow walked into a doctor’s office and the receptionist asked him what he had. "Shingles," he replied.” So she took down his name, address and medical-insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later, a nurse came out and asked him what he had. “Shingles," he answered. So she took down his height, weight and complete medical history. Then she told him to go into the examining room, take off his clothes and wait for the doctor. An hour later, the doctor came in and asked him what he had. “Shingles," the man said. “Where?" asked the doctor. "Outside in the truck," said the fellow. "Where do you want them?” *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**Not long after I got contact lenses, I pulled a traffic violator over. As I wrote out a citation, another car whizzed by, blowing dust into my eyes. Tears started streaming down my cheeks. Seeing me in this state, the man I was ticketing said, “If you feel that sorry about giving me a ticket, officer, don’t do it.” *(Ted A. McGregor, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dad: “When you say: Let’s go! We’re late!, the children must hear: Everybody move in slow motion!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I’m not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant. *(Robert McCloskey)***

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